

## Safety Advisory Committee

July 1, 2011

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

### Minutes

Committee Member	Representing	Present
Anderson, Erik	Materials Sciences Division	X
Bello, Madelyn	Human Resources Advisor	
Blodgett, Paul M.	Environment, Health and Safety Division	X
Cademartori, Helen	Information Technology Division	
Carithers, William	Physics Division	X
Christensen, John N.	Earth Sciences Division	
Earnest, Thomas N.	Physical Biosciences Division	
Floyd, Jim	Safety Advisory Committee Chair	X
Fujikawa, Brian	Nuclear Science Division	*
Ji, Qing	Accelerator & Fusion Research Division	*
Lukens Jr., Wayne W.	Chemical Sciences Division	X
Lunden, Melissa	Environmental Energy Technologies Division	
Mangiardi, Vito J.	Genomics Division	
Martin, Michael C.	Advanced Light Source Division	
More, Anil V.	Office of the CFO Advisor	
Taylor, Scott E.	Life Sciences Division	X
Tucker, Eugene	Facilities Division	
Thomas, Patricia M.	Safety Advisory Committee Secretary	
Walter, Howard	Computing Sciences Directorate	
Wong, Weyland	Engineering Division	X

**Others Present:** Sue Broadway (for Peter Lichty), Brandon DeFrancisci, Joe Dionne, Scott Robinson, \*Pat Thomas (for Qing Ji), \*Marty White (for Brian Fujikawa), Mike Wisherop

### Work Alone Policy – Jim Floyd

At the May meeting, the Safety Advisory Committee (SAC) recommended approval of the proposed Working Alone policy. The proposed policy went to Paul Alivisatos for review. He is not ready to sign it yet. He requested further input from the LBNL community. Bill Wells will post an article in “Today at Berkeley Lab” and request comments. There will be a “brown bag” session at the 50 Auditorium. The proposed policy is very general, with Divisions developing specific implementation procedures. SAC members are encouraged to attend the “brown bag” session.

## **Incident Investigation Question – Mike Wisherop**

There was a laser lab access incident in Bldg. 2. The Subject Matter Expert listed access control procedures for the lab, PPE requirements, and use of curtains on the Temporary Work Authorization (TWA). The door was not required to be locked because there was an anticipation of a delay in implementation. Mike Wisherop asked whether LBNL safety culture has an expectation that controls for temporary authorizations facilitate rather than delay research.

SAC members responded that decisions about hazard controls are made by the Principal Investigator in consultation with the Subject Matter Expert. PUB-3000, Chapter 6 says that the Division Director must sign the TWA. The signature process for the TWA was not completed in this instance. There are situations where equivalent protections are allowed when engineering controls are missing or not working. The required controls and hazards should be documented. The appropriate controls depend on the level of risk. The work authorization requires Line Management buy-in and the Line Management makes the decision about acceptable risk. Sometimes involvement by higher management can help expedite installation of controls, such as lock systems.

## **Toxic Gas Safety – Joe Dionne**

Proposed changes to PUB-3000, Chapter 13 are being developed. The changes may include:

1. Standardized gas cylinders with restricted flow orifices;
2. Restricted flow orifices for lecture bottles. Swagelok is working on an experimental prototype system;
3. A decision tree for calculating controls for catastrophic releases;
4. Exemptions for excimer gas mixtures if an expert performs a risk analysis;
5. Updating the chapter format to include a Quick Start Guide and Work Processes.

Toxic gas cylinders will be required to have restricted flow orifices or administrative controls. The Advanced Light Source has a procedure requiring checking out Medico keys from the Control Room to access the roof. There will be facility-specific controls for roof access. Facilities Division is taking over responsibility for the ventilation database. The Work Release function is being used to control roof access. Facilities needs to be involved in any decisions about the process. Intel does dispersion modeling for roof emission points and nearby buildings. The new process can be incorporated in Activity Hazard Documents.

## **Annual Lab Director meeting – Jim Floyd**

The annual SAC meeting with the Lab Director is scheduled on August 5. Jim Floyd is working on a presentation to highlight our accomplishments during the past year, and ask for guidance on our plans for the future.

SAC accomplishments include revising our Charter, implementing the new Peer Review process, assisting in developing the new welding requirements (which also helped to clarify the safety roles of EHS and Engineering), the laser incident management plan, and working with the Radiation Safety Committee to resolve Conduct of Operations implementation issues. Other issues that were more difficult to resolve included hazardous materials transportation, access controls and training, and electrical work authorizations.

Issues we are currently working on include the working alone policy, work release system, toxic gas requirements, and sub-ORPS reporting.

The Chemical Safety Subcommittee worked to improve the Chemical Management System by simplifying and clarifying the chemical inventory requirements. (Note: Subcommittee Chairs who have special accomplishments they would like to have mentioned at the meeting should contact Jim Floyd.)

The overall assessment is that while the quality of our work products has been good, the quantity of work could be improved. The SAC would like to be more pro-active in identifying issues that could benefit from our input. Some of the EHS management issues discussed at our meetings (pipeline, strategic planning, roadmap, dashboard) have been mostly informational, and it is not clear how we can help on these issues.

Jim Floyd asked for input on what issues SAC should work on this year. The suggestions included:

- Traffic safety;
- Improving coordination between Facilities project planning and EHS;
- Root cause analysis methods and communication of results;
- Positive safety recognition;
- Succession planning for SAC members and expanding participation.

## **Personal Protective Equipment -- Jim Floyd**

A new subcommittee is being formed to work on this issue. Marty White will chair the group. Several Divisions have identified people interested in participating. They are looking for electrical engineering participation.

## **Customer Service Feedback -- Jim Floyd**

A subcommittee is being formed to work on the issue of how EHS can get better feedback from their customers. People who have expressed interest in participating include: Paul Blodgett, Richard DeBusk, David Kestell, Michael Banda, Bill Johansen, Ali Belkacem, and Ernie Majors.

## **Peer Review -- Jim Floyd**

Erik Anderson led the Peer Review for Earth Sciences Division, with Roger Falcone and Joe Dionne participating. The review team is writing their report. The Division Director asked the reviewers to look at how he can determine how well his safety systems are working. The reviewers used management criteria developed by McCallum-Turner, including planning, expectations, accountability, information, implementations, and leadership. It was a true peer review, because another Division Director (Roger Falcone) was included on the review team. The process of getting Division Directors to talk to each other about safety was valuable. One question that was raised was whether there should be a Division Director's manual to help new Directors.

Environmental Engineering Technologies Division will be the next Division to be reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM  
Respectfully submitted, Patricia M. Thomas, SAC Secretary